

INDIANA STATE LIBRARY

LSTA Information Access for the Un-served Grant *2010 Guidelines*

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Program Overview

The Institute for Museum and Library Services identified “targeting library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children from families with incomes below the poverty line” as one of the primary goals of the LSTA grant program. The Indiana State Library included this goal in its 2008-2012 LSTA five-year plan: “The Indiana State Library will provide resources and support to libraries which seek to serve the un-served or underserved populations in the state.”

Sixty-nine percent of Indiana residents indicate that access to high-speed internet, provided by libraries, is very beneficial to business and economic growth (Indiana Business Research Center 2007). Yet approximately 6.5% of Indiana residents are not served by a public library system. Indiana already ranks below national averages for both the number of household computers in the state and number of households with Internet connectivity. This means that for roughly 6.5% of the population, no information safety net or alternative point of access to information exists for those unable to afford or access online resources at home. Such un-served populations can be found in 37 of Indiana’s 92 counties.

The goal of this project is to assist public libraries in providing library services to these un-served and underserved populations. The Indiana State Library will use these grant monies to provide support for Indiana libraries making a concerted effort to extend their current service area or services such that un-served or underserved populations gain increased access to library services and electronic resources.

Application Process

1. Who may apply?

Libraries making a concerted effort to extend their current service area or services such that un-served or underserved populations gain increased access to library services and electronic resources may be considered for this grant.

2. How do libraries apply?

Any library willing to increase their service area to include currently un-served populations in Indiana may contact the State Library to discuss their plan for enhancing or expanding services. The State Library will determine whether the project will receive funding.

3. What amounts may be requested?

The specific amount of assistance provided will be determined by the individual needs of libraries interested in this project.

4. What is acceptable use of these funds?

Methods public libraries have used in the past to provide services for un-served populations include consolidation with annexation, annexing un-served areas, and creating outreach programs such as bookmobiles. Funds will be available for creating a shared public access catalog, purchasing technological equipment, or increasing networking capabilities. Examples of costs associated with these methods include the combining of separate library catalogs, purchasing of additional collection items, and technological improvements such as additional computers or increased bandwidth.

Allowable expenses

Technology hardware and software (see CIPA information below)
Project staff (wages & benefits of temporary employee; temporary expansion of part-time staff)
Training for participating staff and volunteers

Non-allowable expenses

Entertainment costs
Ongoing operating costs
Overhead or indirect costs
Wages and benefits for existing full-time employees
Other expenses restricted by state or federal guidelines

CIPA Statement

Use of LSTA funds for certain allowable purchases may require public libraries or public elementary and secondary school libraries to comply with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). See www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html.

If interested, please contact Jennifer Clifton at (317) 234-6550.